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ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT



Town of **EASTON** New Hampshire

Year ending December 31, 2003

The 2003 Annual Report is dedicated to
BARBARA COLLIER



Town Auditor 1984-1986
Zoning Board of Adjustment 1986-1988
Town Clerk 1986-2004
Secretary to Board of Selectmen 1988-2002
Tax Collector 1995-Present

When any of us have any question about state regulations or procedures, history of our Town, questions about a resident or property, or background about why we do something in a certain way, we always consult Barbara. She is our fountain of knowledge and voice of authority. She is totally unflappable, unfailingly in good humor, and ever-ready to help any of us with any problem.

Barbara has served our Town well in a number of essential official roles for twenty years. Last year, she felt it necessary to unburden herself from the job of Select Board Secretary, and this year has chosen not to run for reelection as Town Clerk. However, Barbara continues to serve as Tax Collector.

We have been very fortunate to have someone of Barbara's vast knowledge and capabilities to serve our Town for so long and so well. It is for these reasons that we dedicate the 2003 Annual Report to Barbara Collier, and salute her for her 20-year (and still counting!) service to our Town.

Thank you, Barbara!

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Town Officers

for the year ending December 31, 2003

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Printed at the Harrison Publishing House, Littleton, New Hampshire.

TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Board of Selectmen

Robert Craven, Chair (2004)
Robert Thibault (2005)
Keith Kidder (2006)

Treasurer

Terri Rainville (2004)

Moderator

Jim Collier (2004)

Cemetery Trustees

Pia Carmosino (2004)
Greg Sorg (2005)
Richard Larcom (2006)

Planning Board

Anita Craven, Chair (2004)
Jim Collier (2005)
Kevin O'Brien (2005)
Kathy Ouellette (2006)
Bob Thibault (Ex Officio)

Town Clerk

Barbara Collier (2004)

Tax Collector

Barbara Collier (2004)

Auditor

Ralph Brigida

Lafayette School Board

Stephen North (2005)

Trustee of the Trust Funds

Angela Brigida (2004)

Supervisors of the Checklist

M. Joan Laboe (2004)
Patricia O'Brien (2006)
Amy Kelly (2008)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS & BOARD MEMBERS

Fire Chief

Charles Casey

Deputy Fire Chief

Arthur Rainville

Heath Officer

Parker Towle, MD

Police Chief

Robert Every

Fire Wardens

Arthur Rainville
~~Gail Moody~~
Jon Place

Emergency Management Director

Arthur Rainville

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Kathleen Thibault (2004)
Dennis Ford (2005)
John Hynes (2005)
Greg Sorg (2006)
Robert Craven (Ex Officio)
Joseph Exley (Alt)

Welfare Officer

(2006) Keith Kidder

Conservation Commission

Michael Kenney (2005)
Richard Larcom (2006)

Road Agent

Robert Peckett

Recreation Committee

Michael Kenney
Brian Canelas

**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 9, 2004**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 9, 2004. Polls will be open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Article 1. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

To act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year (ballot vote).

ARTICLE 2. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$138,029.00 for general Town operations as follows:

4130 - Executive	\$ 8,625.00
4140 - Election, Registration & Vital Stats & Town Clerk	3,850.00
4150 - Financial Administration	3,450.00
4152 - Revaluation of Individual Properties	2,000.00
4153 - Legal Expenses	5,000.00
4155 - Personnel Administration - Payroll Taxes	1,000.00
4191 - Planning & Zoning	7,000.00
4194 - Government Buildings	8,000.00
4195 - Cemetery	1,600.00
4196 - Insurance	4,100.00
4197 - Advertising & Regional Associations	1,687.00
4199 - Contingency Fund	5,000.00
4210 - Police Department	8,500.00
4215 - Ambulances	1,800.00
4220 - Fire Department	13,250.00
4290 - Forest Fire Control	700.00
4299 - Communications (Dispatch)	1,049.00
4312 - Highway Maintenance	26,000.00
4324 - Solid Waste Collection	250.00
4324 - Solid Waste	14,900.00
4414 - Animal & Pest Control	150.00
4415 - Health Agencies & Hospitals	1,370.00
4419 - Hospice	210.00
4442 - Welfare Assistance	2,000.00
4449 - Tri-County Community Action Program	550.00
4520 - Tri-Town Recreation Programs	4,829.00
4612 - Conservation Commission	100.00
4711 - Principal Payment on \$120,000 Construction Bond	6,000.00
4721 - Interest on \$120,000 Construction Bond	5,059.00
4723 - Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	0.00

Total Appropriations before Warrant Articles	\$138,029.00
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ARTICLE 3. Capital Reserve Fund for Town Revaluation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund for Town Revaluation (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 4. Easton Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for equipment acquisition and replacement for the Easton Fire Department (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 5. Paving Gingerbread Road

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,000.00 to asphalt-pave Gingerbread Road from Rt. 116 to road end at cul-de-sac. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 6. Resurfacing/Repairing and Tree Trimming of Town Roads

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to continue the program of resurfacing, repairing and tree-trimming of Town roads. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 7. Easton Fire Department Used Fire Engine/Pumper Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000.00 for the purchase of a used Fire Engine/Pumper. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, has awarded a \$90,000.00 grant to the Easton Fire Department for this purpose, subject to the Town raising and appropriating 10% of the grant amount (Federal share: \$81,000.00; Town share: \$9,000.00). (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 8. Optional Veterans' Tax Credit

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28 II-V for an optional veterans' tax credit of \$250, which shall replace the standard \$50.00 veterans' tax credit in its entirety and not be in addition thereto. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

There are 14 veterans in Easton, so the effect of passage of this Article would be to decrease tax revenue by $\$200.00 \times 14 = \$2,800.00$.

RSA 72:28 II permits the amount voted for this tax credit to be from \$51.00 to \$500.00.

(ARTICLE 8 above is nearly identical to ARTICLE 6 appearing on the 2003 Town Meeting Warrant. However, RSA 72:28-a, defining the procedure for adoption of the optional veterans' tax credit in effect during the 2003 Annual Town Meeting, was repealed, effective April 1, 2003. This invalidated 2003 Town Warrant ARTICLE 6, making it necessary to offer ARTICLE 8 above.)

ARTICLE 9. To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

Selectmen of Easton
Robert B. Craven, Chair
Robert W. Thibault
Keith Kidder

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Our Board handles the routine business of the Town. We enforce the Zoning Ordinance, issue building and logging permits, monitor unauthorized building, review noise complaints, and help to fill vacancies on the various Town boards. We handle Town personnel and staffing issues, make welfare and tax abatement decisions and work to remain abreast of the ever-changing state laws that could impact our Town.

This year has been a busy one for us. We made some minor improvements to our Town Hall property: We've added a light to illuminate the parking lot and installed parking barriers in front of the Fire Pond. We've contracted for part-time cleaning of the Town Offices and Town Hall. We've made some minor repairs to the parking lot and walkways to the Town Offices. We recognize, however, that a major repaving of the parking lot will be needed in the near future.

Town Library:

Jean Kennard and other members of the Library Committee have been working diligently to catalog our town books and to clean up and paint the library room. Their goal is to reopen the Library on a part-time basis, and hope to have a reopening Open House sometime before Town Meeting.

Police:

Police Chief Bob Every has formally resigned, effective April 30, 2004. Bob has served our Town well as Police Chief for the past 12 years, and we are all greatly indebted to Bob for his long-time service. Bob has volunteered to form a Police Chief Search Committee, to find qualified candidates for this important job, and we wish Bob and his committee success in their work.

Administrative Changes:

Barbara Collier has admirably served our Town as Secretary to the Select Board, Town Clerk and Tax Collector for over 20 years. Last year, she unburdened herself from the job of Select Board Secretary. This year, she feels that she additionally must unburden herself from one of these other two jobs, as well. Barbara has chosen not to run for reelection as Town Clerk. However, she has agreed to continue as Tax Collector. We have been very fortunate to have someone of Barbara's capabilities and unfailing good humor to serve our Town for so long and for so well. We all owe Barbara a tremendous debt of gratitude for her long-time service to our Town.

Terri Rainville, our Town Treasurer, decided to relinquish her additional duties as our Secretary, and Nicole Bell became Secretary to the Select Board in September. We thank Terri for her very capable work as our Secretary, and welcome Nicole, who has shown herself to be an equally capable contributor to our Board.

Roads:

For many years, our road maintenance and improvement program has consisted principally of grading, graveling and oiling our non-paved Town roads. This is a low cost, but not entirely satisfactory, solution. We believe that the Town should now decide whether it wants to continue with this program, or to initiate a better, but more costly, multi-year program to pave all Town roads that currently are gravel. To this end, we are

offering a warrant article to pave the first section of Ginger Bread Road, which is the highest-usage, non-paved Town road.

Town Culvert Location Mapping:

Easton has 47 road culverts that must be regularly maintained. Their exact locations are known only to our long-time Road Agent Bob Peckett. Since Bob will not be with us forever, we decided to map the locations of these culverts precisely using GPS (Global Positioning System) satellite receiving equipment. This was successfully accomplished (at no cost to the Town), and the information has been stored digitally so that it will be available to Bob’s successor.

Fire Department Grant Received:

The Easton Fire Department, under the able leadership of Fire Chief Charles “Butch” Casey and Deputy Fire Chief Art Rainville, was recently awarded a grant by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in the program area of “Firefighting Vehicle”. The approved project cost is \$90,000, with a Federal share of 90% or \$81,000 and a Town share of 10% or \$9,000. There is a lot of competition for these grants, and this award to the Easton Fire Department is due principally to Deputy Fire Chief Art Rainville’s diligent efforts. We applaud Art for his efforts in securing this significant award for the Easton Fire Department.

Growth and Sprawl:

One has only to observe the recent residential and commercial developments taking place in surrounding towns to recognize that growth will soon be coming our way. Easton has several large properties that could very well come on the market within the next few years. In order for Easton to retain its rural character in the presence of this potential growth, it has become increasingly important that Easton have a well-crafted Zoning Ordinance that will be capable of successfully withstanding any legal challenges that a potential developer might pose. To this end, we recognize the importance of, and applaud the Planning Board’s continuing work to codify our Zoning Ordinance, and to update it to be consistent with the values of our residents as reflected in the Easton Master Plan.

Public Service:

Town government can only function effectively when capable residents volunteer to serve on the various Town boards and committees that make this government work. We urge all residents to meet their civic responsibilities, and to avail themselves of the many opportunities to serve on one or more of our several Town boards and committees. This can be a valuable learning, as well as personally rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Selectmen of Easton
Robert B. Craven, Chair
Robert W. Thibault
Keith Kidder

Addendum:

This will be Selectman Bob Craven's last Town Meeting as a Selectman; after 6 years of duty, he is "retiring". His fellow Selectmen would like to commend and thank him on behalf of the Town of Easton for his years of service and his countless hours of detailed work for our Town. Bob's never shirked a request or a duty and has always volunteered for more than his fair share during his tenure. We who have had the pleasure of working closely with Bob are grateful to him for his dedication to the effective and professional management of our Town. As Bob is fond of reminding those of us still working for a living, "retirement's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it...". From his fellow Selectmen, Good Luck and Thank You to Selectman, Bob Craven.

Selectmen
Bob Thibault and Keith Kidder

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated 2003	Actual 2003	Estimated 2004
Taxes:			
3120 Land Use Change Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$ 465.00	\$ 0.00
3185 Timber Taxes	2,000.00	1,117.00	500.00
3186 Payment in Lieu of Taxes	8,000.00	17,878.00	9,000.00
3190 Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	3,000.00	1,734.00	1,500.00
3188 Excavation Activity Tax	0.00	8.00	0.00
Licenses, Permits, & Fees:			
3210 Business Licenses & Permits	0.00	10.00	0.00
3220 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	38,000.00	50,162.00	40,000.00
3230 Building Permits	100.00	205.00	100.00
3290 Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	50.00	1,330.00	500.00
From Federal Government:	0.00	0.00	81,000.00
From State:			
3351 Shared Revenues	600.00	1,315.00	600.00
3352 Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	5,000.00	8,098.00	5,000.00
3353 Highway Block Grant	7,336.00	7,336.00	7,411.00
3359 Other (Including Railroad Tax)	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
Charges For Services:			
3401-3406 Income from Departments	100.00	6,186.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
3502 Interest on Investments	200.00	360.00	200.00
3503-3509 Other	50.00	937.00	100.00
Other Financing Sources:			
3934 Proceeds from Long Term Bonds & Notes	0.00	3,417.00	0.00
3934 Fund Balance ("Surplus") to Reduce Taxes	<u>40,000.00</u>	<u>49,232.00</u>	<u>48,000.00</u>
Total Estimated Revenue & Credits	\$104,436.00	\$151,790.00	\$194,911.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Prior Year	Ensuing Year
Subtotal 1 Appropriations Recommended	\$125,099.00	\$138,029.00
Subtotal 2 Special Warrant Articles Recommended	11,000.00	11,000.00
Subtotal 3 "Individual" Warrant Articles Recommended	<u>14,000.00</u>	<u>113,000.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended	\$150,099.00	\$262,029.00
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues & Credits	<u>104,436.00</u>	<u>194,911.00</u>
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$ 45,663.00	\$ 67,118.00

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – EXPENDITURES

PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATIONS	Estimated 2003	Actual 2003	Budgeted 2004
General Government:			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 7,149.00	\$ 8,625.00
4140-4149 Election, Reg. & Vital Stats	3,450.00	3,217.00	3,850.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	2,850.00	3,026.00	3,450.00
4152 Revaluation of Property	900.00	1,575.00	2,000.00
4153 Legal Expense	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
4155-4159 Personnel Administration	313.00	321.00	1,000.00
4191-4193 Planning & Zoning	5,000.00	1,980.00	7,000.00
4194 General Government Buildings	6,500.00	5,899.00	8,000.00
4195 Cemeteries	975.00	1,190.00	1,600.00
4196 Insurance	2,800.00	3,544.00	4,100.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Associations	1,690.00	1,696.00	1,687.00
4199 Other General Government	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Public Safety:			
4210-4214 Police	6,000.00	4,542.00	8,500.00
4215-4219 Ambulance	1,800.00	2,550.00	1,800.00
4220-4229 Fire	13,000.00	15,296.00	13,250.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	625.00	545.00	700.00
4299 Other (including communications)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,049.00
Highways and Streets:			
4312 Highways & Streets	24,000.00	27,386.00	26,000.00
Sanitation:			
4323 Solid Waste Collection	0.00	0.00	250.00
4324 Solid Waste Disposal	13,746.00	13,746.00	14,900.00
Health:			
4414 Pest Control	120.00	0.00	150.00
4415-4419 Health Agencies, Hosp. & Other	1,586.00	1,586.00	1,580.00
Welfare:			
4441-4442 Administration & Direct Assist.	1,000.00	1,450.00	2,000.00
4445-4449 Vendor Payments & Other	550.00	550.00	550.00
Culture and Recreation:			
4520-4529 Parks and Recreation	6,000.00	4,406.00	4,829.00
Conservation:			
4619 Other Conservation	100.00	0.00	100.00
Debt Service:			
4711 Principal Long Term Bonds & Notes	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
4721 Interest Long Term Bonds & Notes	5,344.00	5,344.00	5,059.00
4723 Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	250.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Transfers Out:			
4915 To Capital Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Appropriations	\$125,099.00	\$113,998.00	\$138,029.00

STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND TAXES ASSESSED FOR 2003

Total Town Appropriations Budgeted	\$150,099.00
Less: Town Revenues Budgeted	(128,415.00)
Less: Shared Revenue To Town	(313.00)
Add: Overlay	2,007.00
Add: War Service Credits	<u>600.00</u>
Net Town Appropriations	23,978.00
 - School Portion -	
Net Local School Budget	0.00
Regional School Apportionment	379,738.00
Less: Adequate Education Grant	.00
State Education Taxes	<u>(121,158.00)</u>
Approved School (s) Tax Effort	258,580.00
 State Education Taxes	
Equalized Valuation (no utilities) x \$4.92	
32,639,473.00	160,588.00
Divide by Local Assessed Valuation	
(no utilities) 27,312,473.00	
Excess State Education Taxes to be Remitted to State	39,430.00
 Total County Appropriation	 55,522.00
Less: Shared Revenue	<u>(156.00)</u>
Net County Appropriation	55,366.00
Total Property Tax Assessed	498,512.00
Less: War Service Credits	<u>(600.00)</u>
Total Property Tax Commitment	\$497,912.00

2003 Tax Rate		%
Town	\$ 0.86	.05
County	1.99	.11
School	9.27	.51
State	<u>5.88</u>	.33
	\$18.00/1000	100%

2002 Tax Rate		%
Town	\$ 1.40	.08
County	1.89	.11
School	8.03	.46
State	<u>6.18</u>	.35
	\$17.50/1000	100%

SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION

Land	\$11,932,798.00
Buildings	15,399,675.00
Less Elderly Exemption	<u>(20,000.00)</u>
Net Valuation Upon Which Tax Rate Is Computed	\$27,312,473.00
Electric Utilities	<u>568,288.00</u>
Total Valuation	\$27,880,761.00
Increase In Net Valuation Over 2002	\$ 783,386.00

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2003

Accrual Basis

ASSETS

Cash In Banks and On Hand	\$261,302.69
Property Taxes Receivable - Current Year	22,883.00
Property Tax Liens Receivable	469.97
Reserve For Abatements, Uncollectibles, etc.	(2,470.00)
Accrued Interest Receivable	368.00
Other Receivables	114.00
Tax Deeded Property	<u>1,442.97</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$284,110.63</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Due To School Districts	\$139,348.00
Due To State of NH - Donor Town	39,430.00
Accounts Payable	142.75
Payroll Taxes Withheld and Payable	646.60
Property Tax Overpayments To Be Refunded	<u>2,278.96</u>
Total Liabilities	\$181,846.31
Reserve For Conservation Fund	\$ 2,308.06
Reserve For Tax Deeded Property	<u>1,442.97</u>
Total Restricted Fund Surplus	<u>\$ 3,751.03</u>
Fund Surplus-Unrestricted	<u>\$98,513.29</u>
Total Fund Equity	<u>102,264.32</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u><u>\$284,110.63</u></u>

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Land at Town Hall & Fire House	\$ 29,450.00
Land - Other	22,400.00
Building - Town Hall	239,342.00
Building - Fire House	63,261.00
Furniture and Equipment - Town Hall	9,877.00
Furniture and Equipment - Fire House	43,500.00
Furniture and Equipment - Library	2,200.00
Furniture and Equipment - Police	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Town Property	\$411,230.00

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the books and records of the Town of Easton for the year ended December 31, 2003. My examination was made in accordance with the State of New Hampshire guidelines and generally accepted auditing standards applied on a consistent basis with that of the prior year.

In my opinion, these books and the reports prepared from them that appear in the Annual Town Report present fairly the financial position and operating revenues and expenditures of the Town of Easton for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Ralph Brigida, Auditor
February 1, 2004

TREASURER'S REPORT **for the Year Ending December 31, 2003**

Bank Balance- January 1, 2003	\$227,563.72
Receipts:	
Tax Collector	\$511,431.22
Town Clerk - Motor Vehicles	50,162.00
From Federal & State Government	34,626.99
Bank Interest	326.81
Other Sources	<u>22,825.09</u>
Total Receipts	\$619,372.11
Disbursements:	
Grafton County - County Taxes	\$ 55,522.00
School Districts	374,517.00
Selectmen's Ordered Paid	<u>158,002.20</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$588,041.20</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2003	\$258,894.63

DEPOSIT RECORD FOR ACCOUNT OF: TOWN OF EASTON-CONSERVATION

Account as of December 31, 2002	\$2,299.97
Interest Earned for 2003	<u>7.41</u>
Ending Balance for December 31, 2003	\$2,307.38

SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS As of December 31, 2003

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
Beginning Balance 1/01/03	\$120,000.00	\$58,425.00	\$178,425.00
Payments Previous Years	6,000.25	5,628.75	11,629.00
Payments Current Year	<u>5,999.76</u>	<u>5,343.73</u>	<u>11,343.49</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/03	\$107,999.99	\$47,452.52	\$155,452.51

DETAILED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS - 2003

1080	Tax Collector	\$507,449.32
3120	Land Use Change	465.00
3185	Yield Taxes	1,116.67
3186	Federal Government-Payment in Lieu of Taxes	17,878.00
3188	Excavation Activity Tax-Current	8.00
3190	Penalties & Interest	2,392.23
3210	Business Permits & Licenses	10.00
3220	Motor Vehicle Permits & Titles	50,162.00
3230	Building Permits	205.00
3290	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	1,330.50
3351	Shared Revenue Block Grant	1,315.00
3352	Rooms and Meals Tax-State of NH	8,097.53
3353	Highway Block Grant-State of NH	7,336.46
3359	Other Grants & Funds	2,000.00
3401	Income From All Departments	6,085.80
3406	Dividends (NHMA)	568.24
3502	Bank Interest	326.81
3503	Rental of Town Property	75.00
3504	Fines & Forfeits	22.00
3509	Miscellaneous Income	272.25
3915	Transfers From Capital Reserve	8,839.16
3934	Proceeds from Notes & Bonds	<u>3,417.14</u>
2003 TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$619,372.11

DETAILED STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS - 2003

1110-200	Property Tax Liens		\$ 2,171.56
2022-200	Taxes Overpay		212.10
2025	Withholding Taxes		(325.31)
3110-100	Property Tax Abatements		500.00
4130-000	Executive		
100	Salaries-Selectmen, Moderator	\$ 1,600.00	
200	Fees-NHMA Lectures	270.00	
300	Outside Svcs (Cartographics Assc., Tax Maps)	970.00	
600	Office Expenses, Secretary Pay & Misc.	<u>4,308.75</u>	7,148.75
4140	Election Registration, Town Clerk & Vital Statistics		
100	Salary- Town Clerk	500.00	
200	Fees-Town Clerk	1,666.50	
500	Election & Voter Registration	127.00	
600	Office & Miscellaneous	<u>848.85</u>	3,142.35
4150	Financial Administration		
100	Salaries-Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditor	1,600.00	
200	Fees & Miscellaneous	146.00	
600	Office Expenses & Bank Service Charges	<u>1,279.86</u>	3,025.86
4152	Revaluation of Individual Properties		1,575.00
4191	Planning & Zoning		2,234.62
4194	Government Buildings		
400	Utilities	3,191.69	
800	Repairs, Maintenance & Supplies	5,849.58	
900	Mowing, Gardening & Wreaths	<u>757.77</u>	9,799.04
4195	Cemetery		
600	Misc., Office Expenses, Memorial Day	.00	
900	Mowing & Maintenance	<u>1,190.00</u>	1,190.00
4196	Insurance		
100	Property Liability-NHMA	2,924.32	
200	Worker's Comp.-Primex	<u>733.41</u>	3,657.73
4197	Advertising & Regional Associations		1,695.87
4210	Police Department		
100	Police Chief-Labor	3,680.00	
600	Services & Expenses	<u>862.08</u>	4,542.08
4215	Ambulances		2,550.00
4220	Fire Department		
100	Salary-Fire Chief	500.00	
110	Firefighters Call Pay	1,571.25	
200	Training, Dues & Other	392.73	
400	Utilities	2,322.30	

600	Office & Miscellaneous	564.12	
630	Truck Inspection, Maintenance & Repair	2,879.15	
635	Truck Fuel	149.84	
700	Equipment & Small Tools	6,574.76	
800	Building Maintenance & Supplies	<u>313.34</u>	15,267.49
4290-000	Emergency Management-Forest Fire		
100	Labor	.00	
200	Training	401.20	
600	Office Expenses & Miscellaneous	.00	
700	Equipment	<u>144.11</u>	545.31
4299	Emergency Management-Communication		1,000.00
4312	Highway Maintenance		34,995.36
4324	Solid Waste		
100	Administration	1,000.00	
200	Disposal	<u>12,746.00</u>	13,746.00
4415	Health Agencies & Hospitals		767.00
4419	Other Health-Hospice		819.40
4442	Welfare Assistance (town)		1,450.00
4449	Other Welfare-Tri County CAP		550.00
4520	Tri-Town Recreation Programs		
100	Administrative Fees	1,000.00	
200	Programs	<u>3,406.50</u>	4,406.50
4711	Construction Bond - Principal		6,000.00
4721	Construction Bond – Interest		5,343.49
4915	Transfers to Capitol Reserve		11,000.00
4931	County Taxes		55,522.00
4933	Schools		
100	Lafayette Regional School District	189,415.00	
200	Profile School District	<u>185,102.00</u>	374,517.00
4939	Excess Property Tax-Education		<u>18,992.00</u>
2003	Total Disbursements		\$588,041.20

TAX COLLECTOR – SUMMARY OF WARRANTS

Levies of 2003 and Prior

DEBITS

		Levies of:
		2003 2002 Prior
Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year:		
Property Taxes #3110		\$24,977.40
Taxes Committed This Year:		
Property Taxes #3110	\$490,947.00	
Land Use Change #3120	465.00	
Yield Taxes #3185	1,116.67	
Excavation Tax @\$.02/yd #3187	8.00	
Utility Charges #3189	5,179.52	
Overpayment:		
Property Taxes #3110	2,285.20	
Costs		147.75
Interest - Late Tax #3190	<u>306.11</u>	<u>1,067.05</u>
Total Debits	\$500,307.50	\$26,192.20

CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:		
Property Taxes	\$468,005.00	\$23,037.38
Land Use Change	465.00	
Yield Taxes	1,116.67	
Interest (include lien conversion)	306.11	1,067.05
Costs		147.75
Excavation Tax @\$.02/yd	8.00	
Utility Charges	5,179.52	
Conversion to Lien (principal only)		1,940.02
Overpayment	2,285.20	
Discounts Allowed Abatements Made:		
Property Taxes	59.00	
Uncollected Taxes-End Of Year: #1080		
Property Taxes	<u>22,883.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credits	\$500,307.50	\$26,192.20

SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS

DEBITS

Tax Liens Executed to Town	2002	2001	2000
Unredeemed Liens Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$	\$5,084.11	\$363.11
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year	2,171.56	0.00	0.00
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)	<u>109.17</u>	<u>469.83</u>	<u>145.71</u>
Total Debits	\$2,280.73	\$5,553.94	\$508.82

CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:

Redemptions	\$1,923.70	\$4,862.00	\$363.11
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190	109.17	469.83	145.71
Unredeemed Liens Balance End of Year #1110	<u>247.86</u>	<u>222.11</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credits	\$2,280.73	\$5,553.94	\$508.82

2003 TAXES DUE
As of December 31, 2003

*Bibaud, William & Kelly.....	\$ 249.00
Bontempi, Robert & Patricia	1,486.00
*Borchardt, Frank & Gertrude.....	257.00
Callender, Martha M.....	20.00
Canelas, Brian & Jacqueline.....	4,191.00
Chartier, Nella	194.00
Cole, Bruce & Lucille.....	893.00
Day, Judy	1,272.00
Decubellis, Michael T.....	45.00
Dionne, Robert & Myra.....	782.00
*Fifield, David & Melanie.....	237.00
Ford, Thomas J.	59.00
French, John & Nancy	65.00
*Hansen, Mark & Linda	303.00
Hoyle, Edward & Marion	69.00
Hoyt, Anthony	301.00
*Hunt, James.....	216.00
*J.K. Realty The	2,208.00
Kenney, David & Michele	1,220.00
*Klumbach, Delores	1,031.00
Larcom, Richard & Donna	1,559.00
Lazzaro, John & Cathy	365.00
*Miller, Joanne E.....	1,023.00
Moody, Fred	1,686.00
Perry, Richard & Kim.....	462.00
Rainville, Arthur & Terri.....	50.00
Schlegel, Paul	1,554.00
Sherburn, Stanley & Lorie.....	108.00
Tatone, John J.	58.00
*Willis, Julia.....	340.00
Zicarelli, Thomas & Rebecca	580.00
	<u>\$22,883.00</u>

*denotes taxes paid after due date

2001 TAX LIEN DUE
as of December 31, 2003

Chartier, Nella	\$222.11
	<u>\$222.11</u>

2002 TAX LIEN DUE
as of December 31, 2003

Chartier, Nella	<u>\$247.86</u>
	<u>\$247.86</u>

TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2003

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the county of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 11, 2003. Polls will be open from 3:00 to 6:00 PM for ballot voting. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

The annual business meeting of the Town of Easton was called to order by the Moderator Jim Collier, at 7 PM. A motion was made by Bob Thibault to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant. This was seconded by Bob Craven. The vote was in the affirmative – unanimous.

To act upon the following subjects:

Article 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year (ballot vote).

Selectman - 3 years

Keith Kidder - 46

Elizabeth Buxton – 1

Cort Roussel- 1

Tax Collector - 1 Year

Barbara Collier – 54

Cemetery Trustee - 3 Years

Richard Larcom – 1

John Hynes – 1

Keith Kidder - 1

Anita Craven - 1

Grayden Peckett - 1

Maria Hynes - 1

Pat Every - 1

Mike Kelley - 1

Town Clerk - 1 Year

Barbara Collier - 54

Treasurer - 1 Year

Terri Rainville - 55

Planning Board - 3 Years

John Hynes - 8

Kathy Ouellette - 45

Auditor - 1 Year

Ralph Brigida - 53

Article 2. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,099.00 for general Town operations as follows:

4130 – Executive	\$ 9,500.00
4140 – Election, Registration & Vital Stats & Town Clerk	3,450.00
4150 – Financial Administration	2,850.00
4152 – Revaluation of Individual Properties	900.00
4153 – Legal Expense	5,000.00
4155 – Personnel Administration – Payroll Taxes	313.00
4191 – Planning & Zoning	5,000.00
4194 – General Government Buildings	6,500.00
4195 – Cemetery	975.00
4196 – Insurance	2,800.00
4197 – Advertising & Reg. Associations	1,690.00

4199 – Other General Government	5,000.00
4210 – Police Department	6,000.00
4215 – Ambulances	1,800.00
4220 – Fire Department	13,000.00
4290 – Forest Fire Fighting & Training	625.00
4299 – Communication (Dispatch)	1,000.00
4312 – Highways	24,000.00
4324 – Solid Waste Collection	13,746.00
4414 – Animal Control	120.00
4415 – Health Agencies	1,376.00
4419 – Hospice	210.00
4442 – Welfare - General Assistance	1,000.00
4449 – Tri-County Community Action	550.00
4520 – Recreation Programs	6,000.00
4612 – Conservation Commission	100.00
4711 – Principal Payment on \$120,000 Construction Bond	6,000.00
4721 – Interest on \$120,000 Construction Bond	5,344.00
4723 – Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	<u>250.00</u>
Total Appropriations before Warrant Articles	\$125,099.00

Bob Thibault moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,099.00 for general Town operations. Keith Kidder seconded the motion. **All were in favor and the Article passed.**

Article 3. Capital Reserve Fund for Town Evaluation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund for Town Revaluation. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

Bob Craven moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund for Town Revaluation. Bob Thibault seconded the motion. **All were in favor and the Article passed.**

Article 4. Easton Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for equipment acquisition and replacement for the Easton Fire Department. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

Keith moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for the equipment acquisition and replacement for the Easton Fire Department. Bob Craven seconded the motion. **All were in favor and the Article passed.**

Article 5. Resurfacing/Repairing and Tree Trimming of Town Roads

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to continue the program of resurfacing, repairing and tree trimming of Town roads. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

Bob Thibault moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to continue the program of resurfacing, repairing, and tree trimming of Town roads. Keith Kidder seconded the motion. **All were in favor and the Article passed.**

Article 6. Expanded Veterans' Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, V and VI for an optional veterans' exemption and an expanded qualifying war service for veterans seeking the exemption. The optional veterans' exemption is \$100.00, rather than \$50.00. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.) (There are 18 Veterans in Easton, so the effect of this is to decrease tax revenue by $18 \times \$50.00 = \900.00 .)

Keith moved the Article to see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, V and VI for an optional veterans' exemption and an expanded qualifying war service for veterans seeking the exemption. Bob Craven seconded the motion. Barbara Collier corrected the number of veterans now seeking the veterans' exemption. She said that the total number of veterans or wives was 15. **All were in favor and the Article passed.**

Article 7. Dredging the Town Pond

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to dredge the man-made Town Pond and install a dry hydrant for water supply and fire protection purposes. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.) (This amount will be matched by a grant obtained by the Easton Fire Department from the NH Rural Fire Protection Initiative.)

Bob Craven moved that the Town raise and appropriate a sum of \$2,000.00 to dredge the man-made Town Pond and install a dry hydrant for water supply and fire protection purposes. Arthur Rainville seconded the motion. **All were in favor and the Article passed.**

Article 8. Purchase of Municipal Software

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$6,000.00 for the purchase of municipal software to support the work of the Easton Town Clerk and the Easton Tax Collector. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

Bob Thibault moved that the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$6,000.00 for the purchase of municipal software to support the work of the Easton Town Clerk and the Easton Tax Collector. Barbara Collier seconded the motion. Bob Craven spoke in support of the Article. **All were in favor and the Article passed.**

Article 9. To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

Bob Every asked to be recognized by the Moderator. He then told the audience that he had enjoyed working as the Police Chief for the past 11 years and that he was now retiring from that position. He said he would remain on the job until the position was filled.

Then Bob Craven asked to be recognized by the Moderator. He asked that the following resolution be offered to the Town.

Joe Pimental, a long-time Easton resident and friend to all of us, passed away early this February, and I'd like to offer the following resolution:

Whereas, JOE PIMENTAL had been a long-time resident of Easton and friend to all, and

Whereas, JOE PIMENTAL had ably served the Town of Easton as Clerk of the Works to ensure that the new Addition to the Easton Town Hall was completed successfully and that it effectively met the needs of the Town, and

Whereas, JOE PIMENTAL had contributed to the Town of Easton in several other important official capacities, including Selectman and Member of the Capital Improvement Program Committee, now be it

RESOLVED: that the Town of Easton herewith expresses its gratitude for Joe's many contributions, and formally dedicates its 2002 Annual Report to his memory, and that a suitable copy of this be presented to his beloved wife Helen.

Now please join me for a moment of silence in memory of Joe.

The Moderator asked for a vote on this resolution. The vote was unanimous.

Article 10. To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

A motion was then made to adjourn by Keith Kidder and seconded by Bob Thibault.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara J. Collier, Town Clerk of Easton

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

For the Year Ending December 31, 2003

Motor Vehicle Registrations	\$50,037.50	
Titles	125.00	
Dog Registrations	381.00	
Penalties	22.00	
Municipal Agent Fees	865.50	
Certified Copies	72.00	
Marriage License	38.00	
Marriage License Fee	7.00	
Miscellaneous	30.00	
Certified Copy Fee	<u>36.00</u>	
Total Transferred to Town		\$51,614.00
Less Statutory Fees Paid to Clerk		
Motor Vehicles	(643.50)	
Titles	(125.00)	
Dogs	(64.00)	
Municipal Agent Fees	(865.50)	
Certified Copy Fee	(36.00)	
Marriage Fee	<u>(7.00)</u>	<u>(1,741.00)</u>
Net Income for Town		\$49,873.00
Town Clerk's Pay	\$ 500.00	
Town Clerk's Fees, as above	<u>1,741.00</u>	
	<u>\$2,241.00</u>	

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara J. Collier
Town Clerk

Office Hours

Monday Morning
10 AM - 12 Noon

Thursday Afternoon
4 PM - 6 PM

**BIRTHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2003**

Date & Place Of Birth	Name Of Child	Name Of Father & Mother's Name
March 03, 2003 Plymouth, NH	Jacob R. Morris	Chad Morris Kristie Morris
May 16, 2003 Littleton, NH	Lucinda M. Storz	William Storz Thea Storz
September 22, 2003 Manchester, NH	Emma C. Pinard	Jeffrey, Pinard Jennifer, Pinard
December 14, 2003 Littleton, NH	Bidzina I. Vetsko	Irakli Vetsko Kellie Hynes

**MARRIAGES REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2003**

Date & Place Of Marriage	Name and Surname Of Groom & Bride	Residence of Each At Time Of Marriage
November 28, 2003 Easton, NH	Michael D. Schmidt Julie M. Musselman	Easton, NH Easton, NH

**DEATHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2003**

Date & Place Of Death	Name & Surname Of Deceased
February 8, 2003 Easton, NH	Joseph E. Pimental
March 1, 2003 Littleton, NH	Kathleen P. Young

EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2003 has been another year with many calls for the Easton Fire Department. Our value has been proven time and time again with our quick response and preparedness in and around the Town of Easton and the surrounding Towns where Easton Fire Department provides Mutual Aid.

Easton Fire Department responded to 21 Calls in 2003 and is broken down as follows:

Fire Alarm Activations	3	Structure Fires	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	Sugar Hill	1
Motor Vehicle Fires	2	Franconia	2
Chimney Fires	1	Woodstock	1
Boiler Fires	2	Bethlehem	2
Assist Life Squad Carry Out	1		
Report of Heavy Smoke	1		

Easton Firefighters fought structure fires in the Towns of Franconia, Sugar Hill, Bethlehem and Woodstock this year. Easton Firefighters were among the first firefighters on the scene for some of the fires. The “Horse and Hound” structure fire was a great save by all the Towns who initially responded to the report of smoke at that location. The Easton Fire Department was an active participant in several Tri-Town Drills during 2003.

The Easton Volunteer Fire Department wishes to express its gratitude to the North Country RC & D Area Council and their program, The NH Rural Fire Protection Initiative, for providing grant monies for a “Dry Hydrant” now located next to the Easton Fire Department and Easton Town Hall. This water drafting facility known as a “dry hydrant” was constructed with monies received from the North Country RC & D Area Council, The Easton Firefighters Association, as well as, Town monies and was put together with help from volunteers.

The Easton Firefighters Association held a very successful fund raising event in November 2003 to raise money for Danielle Plant, a 17 year old girl diagnosed with Lymphoma. The whole Plant family was very pleased and grateful for the monies raised for this worthy cause.

The Easton Fire Department, once again applied, and has finally been awarded \$81,000.00 from the FEMA Federal Emergency Management Grant. This FEMA grant represents 90% of the cost of replacing Engine One. The other 10% (\$9,000.00) is the Town of Easton’s responsibility to raise through the General Fund bringing the total amount available for a new used Engine to \$90,000.00. Our aging front line Engine is no longer NFPA compliant and buying parts for this 30+ year old Engine is becoming a challenge. This is an excellent opportunity for the Town of Easton to purchase an excellent, used, front line Engine for 10 cents on the dollar.

We, the Easton Firefighters, would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every resident for their unwavering support. 2003 was an excellent year and we look forward to 2004 and are ready to continue to provide the best possible Firefighting service to our community.

Respectfully submitted,
The Easton Firefighters, Charles Casey, Chief

COMMUNITY FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER REPORT

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands cooperate to reduce the risk of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Fire permits are mandatory for all outside burning unless the ground where the burning is to be done (and surrounding area) is completely covered with snow. Violations of the fire permit law and other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines up to \$2,000 and/or a year in jail, in addition to the cost of suppressing the fire.

A new law effective January 1, 2003 prohibits residential trash burning. Contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at (800) 498-6868 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information.

Help us to protect you and our forest resources. Most New Hampshire wildfires are human caused. Homeowners can help protect their homes by maintaining adequate green space around the house and making sure that the house number is correct and visible. Contact your Fire Department or the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands at www.nhdfi.org or 271-2217 for wildland fire safety information.

2003 FIRE STATISTICS

(All Fires Reported thru November 3, 2003)

TOTALS BY COUNTY

	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Belknap	40	4.86
Carroll	46	13.99
Cheshire	8	.68
Coos	7	17.40
Grafton	22	12.60
Hillsborough	60	11.34
Merrimack	98	10.45
Rockingham	56	18.54
Strafford	34	7.94
Sullivan	3	2.03

CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

Arson	10
Campfire	25
Children	13
Smoking	20
Debris	226
Railroad	3
Lightning	2
Equipment	8
*Miscellaneous	67

(*Miscellaneous: powerlines, fireworks, electric fences, etc)

Total Fires Total Acres

2003	374	100
2002	540	187
2001	942	428
2000	516	149

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES

REPORT OF THE TRUST FUNDS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

	PRINCIPAL			INCOME			Principal & Interest End of Year
	Balance 01/01/03	Added Funds or Reinvested	Expended Balance 12/31/03	Balance 01/01/03	Income Expended	Balance 12/31/03	
<u>Trust Funds</u>							
Cemetery	\$8,260.25	\$0.00	\$8,260.25	\$2,594.13	\$294.56	\$2,888.69	\$11,148.94
Library Memorial	550.00	0.00	550.00	376.00	18.77	394.77	944.77
Total Trust Funds	<u>\$8,810.25</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$8,810.25</u>	<u>\$2,970.13</u>	<u>\$313.33</u>	<u>\$3,283.46</u>	<u>\$12,093.71</u>
<u>Capital Reserve Funds</u>							
Fire Equipment	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$690.68	\$115.96	\$ 806.64	\$ 6,806.64
Town Revaluation	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	191.47	291.98	483.45	20,483.45
Remodel	8,744.26	0.00	8,744.26	84.94	9.96	0.00	0.00
Total Reserve Funds	<u>\$23,744.26</u>	<u>\$11,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,744.26</u>	<u>\$967.09</u>	<u>\$417.90</u>	<u>\$1,290.09</u>	<u>\$27,290.09</u>

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

The past year was busier with about 40 actual calls for service including the issuance of 2 tickets for Off Highway Recreational Vehicle violations where OHRV operators were racing over an individual's private property, the monitoring of a house arrest, several abandoned 911 calls, checking welfare, lost dogs, an armed search of a house for an intruder at midnight (there was no intruder), assisting other agencies, responding to fire and burglar alarms and an arrest for a logging violation.

In addition, the Easton PD responded to 9 motor vehicle accidents; this was contrary to the downward trend of accidents the past several years. Unlike two year ago, the accidents didn't primarily involve newly licensed drivers but experienced operators. The causes were weather, alcohol, and operating too fast for existing conditions. Please remember to use your seat belt. We all drive too fast at times – keep in mind an accident can have lasting consequences on an individual's life when someone is hurt.

The Easton PD also drafted and filed complaints with the Court, answered motions, and assisted in a drunk driving complaint with respect to one of the motor vehicle accidents. In addition, the EPD worked with the FBI and INS in relation to one subject who no longer resides in Town.

During the past year the Department continued the policy begun in 2002 of aggressive action against large outdoor drinking parties and there were no problems.

Like the last several years there were no burglaries in Town; please keep your eyes open and make a call if you see something suspicious. Easton has been fortunate in that it is about the only Town in the area that hasn't had houses burglarized.

The Department has continued to monitor all the terrorism bulletins and updates. If terrorists are to be stopped it won't be because a super computer program spits out information on a suspect, but because we as individuals and alert citizens are watchful for things that don't look right. During the past year the EPD conducted an extensive investigation of a possible suspect because it was alerted by events that seemed out of the ordinary.

This will be my last report as Easton Chief as I will retire on April 30th 2004. I'd like to say over the past 13 years I've not only enjoyed the position but taken great satisfaction in it. Nevertheless, I also recognize I'm coming to the point where the Town will be better served by a younger man. The Town has formed a search committee and is actively seeking candidates for the position.

I'd encourage the residents of the Town to give thought to the position. We only grow as individuals by reaching for goals beyond our grasp. The position, for me at least, involved great satisfaction. You can only grow in such a position as it involves improving not only the corporate life of the Town but helping people on an individual basis. There is training available that shows how to do the job and fulfill your responsibilities; unlike many professions other law enforcement agencies and people will go out of their way to help you learn to do a better job.

I want to thank each one of you for the trust you've placed in me over the time I've held the position and wish you and your families God's blessings.

Respectfully,
Robert Every

PLANNING BOARD

This has been a very quiet year for the Planning Board. We received no subdivision applications. We have spent our meetings very thoroughly reviewing the subdivision regulations. Our first step was to transfer the current regulations to electronic form so they are easily accessible. The purpose of our review is not to change the substance of the regulations, but to be certain they are unambiguous, clearly and accurately worded, consistent with the latest state statutes, and represent the wishes of the town as stated in the Easton Master Plan. When we have completed the review we will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the proposed changes, the time for which will be well-publicized in the newspaper.

As the Board does each year, we earnestly seek new members to serve in the capacity of Alternate. Alternates are appointed. They attend and participate fully in the meetings, except that they only cast an official vote when an elected Board member is absent. Alternates have the opportunity each fall to attend the annual New Hampshire Law Lecture Series at the Mt. Washington Hotel, an excellent educational series that our members try to attend. Alternates lend continuity to the Planning Board, contributing to the discussion and, ideally, being available to be an informed elected member when a vacancy occurs. To have good government Easton needs the participation of its residents. Anyone interested should contact a member of the Board, or leave their name at the Town offices.

The Planning Board meets the first Wednesday evening of each month at the Town Hall. All of the meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Craven, Chair

Jim Collier

Kevin O'Brien

Kathy Ouellette

Bob Thibault

ex officio for the Selectmen

FRANCONIA LIFE SQUAD

This report of the Franconia Life Squad (FLS) will serve as a year-end report. Once again this has been a busy year for our Squad. We responded to a total of 144 incidents in the three communities we serve.

Our busiest month was August with 16 calls. February and December next with 13 calls each. Motor vehicle accidents draw the most calls followed by cardiac/stroke related emergencies.

The Squad currently has 11 members all of whom are dedicated to providing the best service possible to our three communities. We would like to thank the residents and the towns for their continued support of the Franconia Life Squad.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Wright,
Chief, Franconia Life Squad

The following is a breakdown of our activity for 2003, by town.

Emergency Description	Total	Franconia	Sugar Hill	Easton
Motor Vehicle Accidents	48	41	5	2
Medical Emergencies	18	11	5	2
Trauma Emergencies	18	9	6	3
Bicycle Accidents-Trauma	6	6	0	0
Cardiac/Stroke Emergencies	20	13	4	3
Respiratory Emergencies	4	1	3	0
Alcohol/Drug Emergencies	2	2	0	0
Working CODE-Med. Trauma	2	2	0	0
Mt. Rescue/Medical Trauma	2	2	0	0
MV Accidents/Moose & Deer	5	5	0	0
Seizures—Pediatric & Adult	3	1	0	2
Minor Medical Emergencies	2	2	0	0
Minor Trauma Emergencies	5	4	1	0
Misc. Health Prob./Asst. Runs	1	1	0	0
Fire Department Assists	4	3	1	0
Gun Shot/Stab Wound	1	1	0	0
Life Line Activation Call	3	1	2	0
Total Number of Runs	144	105	27	12
Patient Statistics:				
# Pediatric/Adolescents	21	20	0	1
# Adults	128	90	25	13
Total Number of Patients	149	110	25	14
Patients Transported to Littleton Regional Hospital By FLS:				
	5	5	0	0

**5 Patients or 3.5% of total runs.*

TRI-TOWN TRANSFER STATION

During the 2003 activity at the Tri-Town Transfer Station, we mirrored the growth of the Tri-Town area. Trash tonnage again rose nearly 5%, bringing our total tonnage to 545 tons. Construction and demolition debris rose over 18%, to a total of 204 tons. Although down somewhat from the peak prices of 2002, the recycling prices were stable throughout 2003 and brought in over \$15,000 in revenue. Recycling tonnage, however, was down and our recycling rate dropped to 38%.

We recycled:

- 162 Tons of paper products
- 18 Tons of plastic
- 3 Tons of aluminum cans
- 13 Tons of steel cans
- 44 Tons of scrap metal
- 93 Tons of glass

We sent 545 tons of green bag material (trash to be landfilled) to the Bethlehem landfill at a cost of \$41,867.

Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District will be sponsoring another electronics recycling day in the spring of 2004. The household hazardous waste collection will be held on Sat. June 19, 2004. Both events will be held at the Littleton Fire Station. Please contact us at the Transfer Station for more information.

Greg, Sonny and I would like to thank you, our customers,
for another successful year.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Marshall
Transfer Station Manager

TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING CENTER SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Beginning Balance		\$ 35,404.85
Income		
Town of Franconia	45,035.00	
Town of Sugar Hill	27,191.00	
Town of Easton	12,746.00	
PAYT Fees	74,874.50	
Special Handling Fees	19,638.30	
Recycled Material	<u>15,894.65</u>	195,379.45
Expenses		
Solid Waste Disposal		
MSW Hauling	5,009.76	
MSW Tipping	37,723.48	
Bulky Disposal		
Roll Off Hauling	5,455.99	
Roll Off Tipping	16,837.10	
Utilities	2,415.13	
General Expenses		
Dues	1,753.56	
PAYT Bags	8,791.20	
Insurance	161.00	
Supplies & Baling Wire	316.62	
Oil & Gas	742.61	
Printing & Advertising	245.50	
Training & Certification	253.98	
Uniforms	495.81	
Equipment Maintenance	856.36	
Contingency	1,117.47	
Capital Improvements	9,000.00	
Wages	87,388.82	
Benefits		
Health Insurance	18,117.68	
Retirement	1,644.00	
Workers' Compensation	3,272.32	
Payroll Taxes	<u>6,685.26</u>	<u>208,283.65</u>
Ending Balance		\$ 22,500.65

RECREATION PROGRAM

The Tri-Town Recreation Programs has had another incredibly busy year! A huge thank you to all the volunteer coaches, umpires, referees and parent helpers who have made our multitude of recreation programs possible for the youth of Franconia, Sugar Hill and Easton.

Our youth baseball/softball teams were successful with our second White Mountain League **Home Run Derby**, our only fundraising event. Money raised helped all teams in the league with uniforms, equipment, and tournament fees to send teams to play in post-season tournament games. We hosted an 11-year-old baseball tournament in Bethlehem this summer with many boys from all three towns. Great work to all who assisted, played and donated to this wonderful event.

Our Summer Recreation program was record breaking with many new students attending! Lafayette Regional School's multipurpose room provided a cool and dry place to spend the unpredictable weather during the summer. Field trips to roller rinks, Santa's Village, Lost River, Hobo Hill Mini Golf and Canobie Lake Park kept everyone very busy over the summer. Beach days-brought sand castles, fun in the water and a relaxing day with friends. Swim lessons took place for our youngest summer rec. campers at Sunset Hill House and our school age campers were swimming at Hillwinds all with Jean Serino at the helm. Adventure campers in grades 6th, 7th & 8th explored local swimming holes, went to a SeaDogs baseball game, rock climbing, a photo scavenger hunt and Six Flags Theme Park. Many thanks to all the hard working staff and parents that assisted in making this summer very memorable.

Our soccer teams brought almost 90% of the Lafayette school population to the field to play this fall. New uniforms for the 3rd & 4th grade players made some very sharp looking teams. All of our soccer teams played very well, the 3rd & 4th grade teams started the season by playing each other for the title of tournament champions at the Lisbon Kick Off Classic and continued to play an undefeated season. The 5th & 6th grade girls team were tournament champions in Lancaster, with a few of the girls playing on the boys team making for some very tired players! Great work to all players, coaches, referees, and parents for a fantastic season.

November brought Jean Serino back to us with a stroke development swim class for 4th through 6th grade students at the Franconia Village Hotel. In the spring, Stonybrook Motel welcomed us in for swim lessons for younger students in grades 1st – 3rd. We hope we'll be welcomed back again in 2004!

This winter ice making will be in the always-reliable hands of Jeff Phillips through the Town of Franconia. Hours are posted outside the rink. We hope to see a long skating season again this year. Work was done this summer to repair and paint boards at the rink to keep this wonderful resource available and open to everyone.

The Recreation Committee meets the first Thursday of each month at the Franconia Village House at 6:00 PM. We welcome the public to attend. We look forward to another exciting year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Germain, Recreation Director and
The Tri-Town Recreation Committee

NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2003

It has been another busy year at North Country Council. We continued to complete a number of local and regional projects for all of our 51 communities throughout the region. Summaries of some of the major projects are as follows:

Transportation:

- Completed over 200 traffic counts during the spring, summer and early fall.
- Completed the TIP process and sent a report to NHDOT with our region's priorities.
- Coordinated the Transportation Enhancement process including a work session with the committee, project review based on set criteria, presentations by applicants, and a final review and prioritization and final report to NHDOT.
- Began the updating of the regional transportation plan.
- Coordination meetings with NHDOT on process of the Ten Year Plan.
- Attendance and participation at the GACIT meetings throughout the North Country.
- Assisted Community Planner with the update to two master plans' Transportation Sections.
- Provided technical transportation assistance to the majority of the communities in our region.
- Coordinated the North Country Transportation Committee.

Economic Development:

- Successfully received \$1.5 million from EDA for the Mount Washington Valley Technology Village.
- Coordinated the North Country District Economic Development Committee.
- Successfully extended the EDA District to include all of Grafton County.
- Successfully completed a \$2.6 million EDA application for the Dartmouth Regional Technology Village in Lebanon, currently hiring an engineer for the project.
- The CEDS Committee also undertook a major re-write of the CEDS document and held seven public meetings in order to educate the public about EDA and to gather input to economic issues in the region.
- Wrote 34 grants, for a total of \$7,020,505 for the region in order to assist local communities. Of these grant applications \$4,567,830 have been funded and \$1,469,000 is still pending.
- Applied for funding to assist with a telecommunications feasibility study, one of the major issues raised at the public advisory meetings in the spring.

Community/Regional Planning:

- Provided technical assistance to 20 towns throughout the region.
- Participated in the updated 7 master plans and zoning ordinances for member communities.
- Coordinated the Law Lecture Series for the NH Municipal Association.
- Provided assistance to three (3) towns for the creation of Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Environmental Planning:

- Provided technical assistance to over 25 communities in the area of solid waste and hazardous waste management.

- Coordinated the Household Hazardous Waste Management collections for 23 communities.
- Conducted solid waste and transfer station audits for two community transfer stations.
- Conducted an ongoing fluorescent light collection program.
- Conducted two electronic equipment collections.
- Provided technical assistance in the National Flood Insurance Program throughout the region.

Many of these programs will continue into the year 2004. Major programs for the year 2004 will be completion of our Regional Transportation Plan, the development of a feasibility study for a Regional Hazardous Waste collection site and the continued assistance to all of our communities in grant writing, community planning and other community planning needs.

Our overall goal, however, remains the same: to provide support and leadership to the region, its governments, businesses and citizens.

Sincerely,
Michael J. King, Executive Director

WHITE MOUNTAIN MENTAL HEALTH

and

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Director's Report

Each year the writing of this report provides an opportunity to reflect on the year's challenges and accomplishments. This year, my 10th as Director, I would like to reflect on the changes in mental health and development services during the past decade.

1993

- All clients, including children and elders, were required to come into the office for appointments, and missed appointments were common.
- Medications were difficult to regulate, had many side effects and were often not effective. Medications for serious mental illness were generally very sedating and management of severe symptoms was often difficult.
- Many people with developmental disabilities were put on "behavior plans" to manage their aggressive or inappropriate behavior.
- Out most mentally ill adults attended a "day program" in our building; almost none were viewed as being capable of holding a job.
- All of our developmental services were provided in our building in a "sheltered workshop". Recreation outside of the building involved several clients going together in a van. "Real" jobs were rare.
- The concept of outpatient mental health short-term therapy was new and regarded as a poor substitute for longer term treatment.
- Most mental health clients were insured, and most insurance covered an unlimited number of visits.

2003

- Most children, elders and seriously ill adults needing mental health treatment are seen at home, school or in their community. Multiple services assist people where they live.
- A new generation of medications, combined with new understanding of brain chemistry has provided effective treatment for many forms of mental illness. "Self management" and "recovery" are now realistic goals.
- We no longer utilize "behavior plans" for people with developmental disabilities. Instead, we view behavior as communication and we try hard to respond to the needs expressed.
- Mentally ill adults receive support to live and work in the community. "Clean and Green Enterprises" is an active client-run business.
- People with developmental disabilities are working in a variety of jobs and are reliable and loyal employees. Some people with disabilities have their own businesses. Our staff works to connect people with disabilities to their community instead of "sheltering" them.
- Our mental health clinicians are trained to provide short-term therapy, which research has shown to be as effective as longer-term treatment.

- A high percentage of our mental health clients are uninsured due to the high cost of health insurance, and all insurance companies limit the number of visits they will cover. We continue to be the “safety net” for these people.

It is clear that much has changed in the past decade. Some changes, like the skyrocketing cost of health insurance, are cause for concern. Other changes, like the availability of in-home supports, improved medications and community integration of people with disabilities, are cause for celebration. In both cases, we need the support of our towns to assure that we continue to move forward in the next decade.

During 2003, 4 uninsured or under-insured people in the town of Easton received 64.25 hours of service. Town contributions allow us to continue to offer discounted services. Thank you for the past decade of support.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane C. MacKay, Area Director

NORTH COUNTRY HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC.

Report of 2003 Services

Home care is critical to serving the growing health care need of this country. North Country Home Health and Hospice Agency makes it possible for hundreds of people a year to continue their lives at home. Recognizing that clients and their families have special requests and routines, we coordinate all aspects of our clients' care with a keen respect for individual needs. In working with families we discover what is important to the client - their independence, their ability to determine their own future, their right to say, "thanks, but no thanks." It is in the respect of our clients' values and expectations that have earned us a reputation for providing exceptional health care services.

North Country Home Health and Hospice Agency relies on Town support and individual donations to help underwrite the cost of providing home care services to people with limited or no health benefits. Because of your generosity and support, North Country Health and Hospice continues its 32-year tradition of responding to the home health and hospice needs of North Country residents.

As we struggle to deal with the difficult and time consuming issues facing home care today, the staff of North Country Health and Hospice Agency wants to thank you for your continued support so vital to helping people in your town be assured of continuing quality medical care at home.

Explanation of Services:

Skilled Services - shorter hospital stays and new technology allow many treatments to be done in the home, provided and administered by skilled professionals, such as nurses and therapists.

Supportive Care Services - home health aides, homemakers, and companions ensure ill and disabled persons can live in healthy households, have clean clothes, nutritious meals, and help with their activities of daily living.

Hospice Care - a holistic, family supportive, medically directed, team-oriented program that seeks to treat and comfort individuals and families coping with terminal illnesses.

Services provided to the Town of Easton in FY2003 include:

Type of Care	# of Visits
Nursing	22
Physical/Occupational/Speech Therapy	26
Medical Social Service	4
Home Health Aide/Homemaker/Companion	<u>4</u>
Total	56

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Jurasek, Executive Director

HOSPICE OF THE LITTLETON AREA

2003 Annual Report

In this, our 14th year of town funding, Hospice of the Littleton Area provided services to a total of 209 patients and family members. Our service area includes the towns of Littleton, Bath, Bethlehem, Carroll (Twin Mountain), Dalton, Easton, Franconia, Haverhill, Landaff, Lincoln, Lisbon, Lyman, Monroe, Sugar Hill, Whitefield, Woodstock, and Woodsville.

The director, volunteer coordinator and hospice volunteers provided special care to 89 individuals and their families coping with the advanced and final stages of illness. These services took place in patient's homes, at Littleton Regional Hospital, or in nursing homes. Additionally, our bereavement care program supported a total of 120 grieving clients through mailings, phone contact, one-on-one counseling sessions, and bi-monthly grief support group meetings at both the Littleton Community House and the Haverhill Senior Center.

Hospice of the Littleton Area continues its partnership with two area programs. HLA provides volunteer and bereavement services to the North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency's Medicare Hospice Program and offers supportive care to patients and family members in the Hospice Room at the Littleton Regional Hospital. In all our efforts this year, the Hospice of the Littleton Area staff and volunteers gave over 5,130 volunteer hours in services.

Our Volunteer Coordinator conducted the annual six-week, (18-hour) Hospice Volunteer Training Program. Those attending included individuals interested in becoming volunteers or increasing their awareness of hospice care. Eleven (11) people completed our 2003 Spring Training Program. Since 1983, we have trained 277 people and currently have 72 active volunteers available to support area residents.

Hospice of the Littleton Area conducts outreach services through public information seminars and meetings with civic organizations and schools. It also offers a lending library (in the hospice office) with resources (books/videos) for patients, family members, primary care givers and hospice volunteers.

There is *no charge* to patients or families for the services of Hospice of the Littleton Area, which was founded in 1983. This service is made possible only through the generous support provided by the towns that we serve. Without financial help from the towns, we would not be able to provide supportive care to the many patients and families we serve.

Your support of Hospice of the Littleton Area is greatly appreciated as we continue to provide special care to the residents of area communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Neil
Executive Director

Town of Easton
FEES
(Subject to Change)

Building Permit Application Fees

Up to 1300 sq. ft. - \$25.00
Over 2000 sq. ft. - \$35.00
Over 2000 sq. ft. - \$35.00
Alterations to Existing Structures - \$15.00



9-1-1 Building Numbering - \$20.00



Current Use Application - \$20.00



Driveway Permit (Town Roads) - \$20.00



Reappraisal Charges - \$40.00



Subdivision Application Fees

Minor and Major Subdivisions: \$20.00
Plus An Additional \$5.00 For Each Lot Over The First Three
Minor Lot Line Adjustment and/or Boundary Agreement: \$10.00



Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances

Easton Taxpayers - Free
Other - \$10.00



Copies

Easton Taxpayers - \$.10 per page
Others - \$.25 per page



Clerical Time To Meet Miscellaneous Information Requests
\$20.00 per hour, payable before information is released

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

9-1-1

POLICE – FIRE
MEDICAL EMERGENCY

POLICE EMERGENCY

9-1-1

POLICE CHIEF

Robert Every — 823-8090

FIRE CHIEF

Charles Casey — 823-5045

FIRE WARDENS

Arthur Rainville — 823-9558

~~Gail Moody~~ — 823-7161

Jon Place — 823-8759

TOWN CLERK'S HOURS

Telephone — 823-8017

Fax — 823-7780

Email — eastontownclerk@aaahawk.com

Monday Morning

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Thursday Afternoon

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Dogs must be Licensed by May 1, 2004

An up-to-date

DOG LICENSE & RABIES CERTIFICATE NUMBER

is required in Easton to License a dog.

A \$15.00 Forfeit if not Licensed by June 1st.

Selectmen meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

